in its Common Approach to Major Policy Matters and a Minimum Programme has stated that the anti-poverty programmes will be redesigned to ensure generation of more employment, creation of assets, imparting productive skills and raising the incomes of the very poor so that a significant number is brought above the poverty line every year and poverty is abolished by the year 2005.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty from the quinquennial National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure. As per the latest available estimates, 320.37 million people live below the poverty line in 1993-94. The number of people living below the poverty line in Gujarat is estimated as 10.52 million in 1993-94. In Gujarat, the percentage of population living below the poverty line among the SCs in 1993-94 are 32.26% in rural areas and 44.99% in urban areas and the same among the STs are 31.20% in rural areas and 35.47% in urban areas.

(c) The targets for the number of poor people to be uplifted above the poverty line are not set annually.

Free Medical Facilities to SCs/STs

2380. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive scheme is being implemented in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to provide free medical facilities to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of families benefited under the scheme in each State particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh since its introduction; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce such a scheme for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Kashmir Issue

2381. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Foreign Minister who visited Mpscow during tbe last month urged Russia to "guide and direct" its ongoing talks with India on Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the Indian Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir. The Pakistan Foreign Minister addressing a Press Conference on 8th July, 1997, at the conclusion of his visit to Russia last month, had reportedly sought help, guidance, direction from Russia for reaching a peaceful settlement of the Jammu & Kashmir issue.

(b) It is Government's consistent policy that all issues between Indian and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally. This ruled out any third party intervention of any sort. India's principled position has received wide support in the international community, including by Russia.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Kasnmiri Pandits

2382. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Kashmiri Pandits and others who were rendered homeless rehabilitated after the new Government has taken the charge in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for rehabilitation of displaced person by the end of 1997 and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the terrorists have attacked the rehabilitated people;

(d) if so, the number of persons killed and injured in terrorist attacks;

(e) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to check the atrocities of the terrorists; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No Kashmiri migrant family has returned to the Kashmir Valley after the installation of the new Government in the State.

(b) The State Government is preparing an action plan for return of Kashmiri migrants to their native places and they have informed that the process is likely to take

some time as the problem has to be tackled on a politico-economic basis. The question of setting up of target will arise only after the finalisation of the plan.

(c) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

[English]

Hindustan Latex Limited

2383. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Latex, Trivandrum (Kerala) is earning profit;

(b) if so, the reasons for the piling of stocks in the public sector undertaking last year; and

(c) the action taken to streamline the functioning of the said undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir, except for the year 1995-96.

(b) The company has reported that as on 31-3-1996 they had a balance stock of 94.57 Million pieces of condoms against sale of 562.83 Million Pieces of condoms and 2.06 Million Pieces of Copper-T against sale of 1.97 Million Pieces of Copper-T.

(c) The company is in the process of strengthening and expanding direct marketing of branded condoms and oral pills to supplement its sales to the Government for the Family Welfare Programme. In Government purchases HLL has to necessarily compete with a number of other manufacturers and therefore can hope to get orders for supply of only part of the total Government procurement.

[Translation]

Employment to Unemployed Youth

2384. SHRI SOHANBEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the migration of the educated unemployed youths from the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra and other States for employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to provide employment to them in the hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major poverty alleviation programmes which provide employment are in operation throughout the country including hilly areas. Poverty alleviation programmes which provide employment in the rural areas are Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. In the urban areas, two Poverty Eradication Schemes are in operation, namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme which also seek to provide employment. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is being implemented as Central Plan Scheme to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youths in both rural and urban areas.

The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to productive employment which will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment.

[English]

Sanitation in Hospitals

2385. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lavatories of the staff and the doctors are cleaned regularly and others used by patients are being ignored in the Central Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government have undertaken surprise visits to check the lavatories for cleanliness and also to check the availability of sanitary facilities in lavatories in the said Central Government hospitals; and

(d) if so, the number of visits conducted and the short-comings found and the action taken against those who are responsible for the lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) In Central Government hospitals, lavatories of staff and and doctors as well as the patients are cleaned regularly.

(b) Does not arise.